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Campaign Duties.

Another Presidential campaign is on. The parties have named their candidates, the newspapers are taking their positions, the orators will soon be in the field. On every rostrum in the country, earnest men will be declaiming to the listeners that will gather around them, that certain principles must be endorsed and a certain man be elected, or the great Republic will be halted in its course, and the beginning of the end will be in sight. This old planet of ours has been churned by earthquakes and rocked by storms for thousands, possibly for millions, of years, but it has kept on its course; it has suffered mighty disasters in places, but it has held its way in space, its evenings and mornings have never failed, its seasons have followed each other in steady procession, for the laws that ordained its progress have been in force through all the ages.

So from the beginning we may conclude that while this or that administration may add to, or take away some of the benefits which are our nation's due, it will hold steadily on its course, for when the work of the men of '76 was finished, that work bore all the marks of divine direction, and the events of the succeeding years more and more impress that belief upon thoughtful men. There was a time when the great war between the north and the south was at its height when timid souls feared that the end was near; but the end revealed that God was watching and the lesson it taught was that mistakes are costly and that wrongs must be atoned for. So no matter who may be elected in November the Republic will continue to sail on, the questions for the voter must be, "who will make the fewer mistakes?" which policy will result in most good for the greatest number of our people?

And this should cause every man, no matter what may be his calling to review the nation's history, to note what measures have seemed to enhance and what retard prosperity and make up his own mind how to vote. Could this be done by every man, the high and the humble alike and then could each man honestly vote his sentiments the result could not but be for the good of all, for the honest ballots of a nation like ours come nearer being the voice of God than aught

else can be. This is what the fathers believed would be. Their thought was that could a Government be framed under which all men would stand on common ground, with no laws to prevent any men from doing any legitimate thing; with every opportunity opened to all alike, there would be such an affection for such a Government, such a jealous regard for its welfare, that every man would be an inspired defender of it. And such should be the case, but we fear it is not. There are many weak men, some bad men, some who go to the polls with more passion than patriotism in their hearts, many are shamefully ignorant of the principles on which our Government rests, and some overborne by a superstitious fear, will dare to lay slave hands upon the free American ballot and cast it as they are instructed to. To such we would recommend a study of the rebellion of 1861 and the causes that led up to it, its results, and then to have once more impressed upon them the fact that when any considerable number of citizens neglect their duties, that neglect has to be paid for, and if the wrong is too great the payment has to be made in money, in tears and in blood.

The Great National Problem.

When the southern problem was spoken of for many years the professional politicians of the south told us to please let them alone; that the south would take care of her own affairs; that they knew the "nigger" better than we and they did not need any help in the adjustment of their domestic difficulties. Now it begins to look as though those politicians had unwittingly told a great truth. There are organizations in the most extreme southern states, the object of which is to do justice to the colored man, compel him to work and open opportunities for him to work and to make him responsible for his own well being. Prohibition is a fixed fact in many of the states where negroes are in greatest proportion, and that helps, for the most rabid southern politician cannot talk long without he has a "bracer." The work of Booker Washington is no longer looked upon with disdain, and the pupils from Booker Washington's school are finding places and out on the poor farms the colored men are acquiring titles to the land and making a living and a little more. The taxable property of the colored man has increased in the single state of Georgia two or three million dollars in the last year, and under normal conditions it is reasonable to believe that within the next fifteen or twenty years the colored vote of the south will not only be cast without intimidation, but will be honestly counted, and it is more than possible that the south will have settled her labor problems before the north.

In the north that problem has become a menace. Both conventions had to spend most of their time in fixing a plank to satisfy organized workers. What the Denver convention may do is not, at this writing, given us, but what the Republican convention did is before us. They promised to the working men that except in time of extreme peril, there should be no injunction served upon them without the other side having notice. We think it would have been better to have left that entirely out of the platform. If the Demo-

crats can improve upon it we shall be glad to see it. Mr. Bryan has been pandering to that vote ever since 1900 and that has been the more remarkable because he is supposed to be a trained lawyer and brought up in the belief that the courts of the United States are just, that the judges are honest and that they will issue no process which will be a hardship to any man. But he wants votes. The Democratic convention this year is playing for votes with more zeal than perhaps ever before, because they really have a chance to win.

But the labor question, north and south, is the great problem of our country and it is one in which there is more danger of final disaster than on any one question which is before the American people. It is a common remark that everything comes from labor, and that is true. All the changes that have been wrought in this old world from the beginning have been done through toil, all the cultivation of the fields, the opening of the mines, the building of the ships and cities—that is all labor. In that respect labor is omnipotent, but behind that the moving spring of labor in all the ages has been either for bread or the money that the laborer might receive, and when a man denounces capital and lauds labor, he is playing with fire, he is forgetting that the man with the capital can get along; that the mere laborer cannot get along without the pay.

The last three years we have heard from high authorities that corporations must be curbed and we have seen them curbed, and whenever one of them is assailed we have seen that the first result has been to cripple labor. Just now throughout the country the trains are standing still on the railroad tracks, the factories are still and the cry that rises up over all is of the men who want to work who cannot obtain employment. Conventions pander to this fact, conventions tell about a fair division of the profits between labor and capital, and the burden of it all is to offer a premium on vicious laborism. And the safest thing for the laboring man to consider is what is true of all the world, that what a man has he must earn and that whatever is done to cause the men who pay him his wages to discharge him and get along without his wages is only hard on the working man himself. It is true that all this country has accomplished has been through labor, but it is also true that the best paid labor in all the world is in our country and that the honors which have been given to men in this country have been in large proportion honors to men who began with nothing, and with only their muscle and their mind forged out for themselves a fortune and an honored name, and that is a good rule to stick to. It is the safest rule that a working man can adopt, keeping in mind all the time that we are all alike struggling to do the best we can, and that the result of that struggle is just now the freest, the richest, and brainiest and the strongest nation in all this world.

Souls Not Entirely Great.

When the Republican convention met there was no one to be nominated but Secretary Taft. When the Democratic met there was no one to be nominated but Mr. Bryan. They are both very splendid men, but before they were nominated

Lest we forget Devine—remember the Atlas block fire